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Strength in preparedness

FBI and CIA vital bulwarks of America

It is welcome news that J. Edgar Hoover will stay on as Director of the FBI. President-elect Richard Nixon also has asked Richard Helms, and he has consented, to remain as Director of the CIA.

As in his appointments to the cabinet, Mr. Nixon is again demonstrating his interest in the stability of government and his concern about the face we turn toward our enemies at home and abroad.

And we have enemies! The most important thing in the future of the FBI was to thwart the continuing effort by Liberals as well as radicals to force it back into politics and make it subject to pressure.

Mr. Nixon averted that by reappointing Mr. Hoover

Though he will be 74 years old Jan. 1, Mr. Hoover remains a driving, dedicated force who by personal character has survived the schemes of one politician after another.

And that is what law-abiding Americans want.

A dark cloud is rising above the horizon. It foreshadows anarchy or revolution. The nation must know its leaders and its plans. The country must rely on the FBI for its very existence.

And it must be the FBI on which the administration of Mr. Nixon also will have to rely in large extent in the war on domestic crime which must be waged simultaneously.

Crime knows no boundaries.

In the long run, however, the most deadly challenge must come from the left.

It seems strange that after all that has happened in this disordered world in the last half century that too few people recognize communism for what it is.

It takes many forms — and we are seeing some of the manifestations every day, on our campuses and in our streets.

The FBI and the CIA have a proper division of roles: the FBI on guard at home and the CIA on guard abroad.

The more we know the safer we are. The men who now rule in the Kremlin won their places in the murderous ranks of Stalin. In the great purges a million persons were taken and killed to end opposition, fancied or real, to Communism or to the leaders own hunger for personal power.

Their agents still penetrate the high circles of the free world and the ranks of revolutionists and dissidents everywhere.

Liberal-radicals have tried to bring the CIA under closer congressional scrutiny and thus end the effectiveness it has been developing under professional direction.

Just as they have tried to do in the case of the FBI.

But Mr. Nixon says the United States is going to negotiate from strength — and obviously not just military strength but from the strength of knowledge of the enemy.